



# ***FACT SHEET***

## **FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Washington State Military Department

Emergency Management Division

Camp Murray, WA 98430

The Flood Mitigation Assistance program (FMA) is available on an annual basis to state, local and Indian tribal governments for cost-effective measures that reduce the risk of flood damage to structures that have flood insurance coverage. Funding is available for flood mitigation planning and implementation of flood mitigation projects. The State Emergency Management Division (EMD) administers the program and is responsible for selecting projects for funding. The State forwards selected applications to FEMA for eligibility determination. Individuals cannot apply directly for FMA funds, although their local government may submit an application on their behalf.

### **AVAILABLE FUNDING**

Annual funding is through the National Flood Insurance Program on an allocation based on the number of flood insurance policies in effect in the State; available funding can vary from year to year. In recent years, the State has received allocations of about \$300,000 (federal share) for projects and about \$30,000 (federal share) for flood mitigation planning initiatives. Larger projects and planning initiatives that cost more can be applied for by eligible communities. All grants require a 25 percent applicant match, only half of which can be provided by in-kind contributions; the state does *not* provide a portion of the match. For projects that involve severe repetitive loss properties, the federal cost share is 90 percent, with a 10 percent applicant match.

For FY 2011, the application window opened June 1, 2010. EMD uses a two-step application process; only those jurisdictions that submitted letters of intent to apply for grant funding by May 14, 2010 are eligible to apply for grant assistance. EMD uses the letter-of-intent process, FEMA's on-line *eGrants* application system, and supplemental information (e.g., NFIP and Growth Management Act compliance) to prioritize local applications.

Special note: FEMA has funds remaining in the FY2010 FMA program, and applications can be submitted by eligible applicants for funding at any time. Projects are reviewed and funded on a first-come, first-served basis until remaining funds are obligated.

### **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:**

For a community to be considered for project funds, it must have 1) a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets the criteria of 44 CFR Part 201, and 2) be a participant in good standing in the NFIP. EMD also requires communities to be in compliance with applicable State Growth Management Act requirements. Additionally, applicants must have both zoning and building code authority for their community.

FMA funds can be used for the following plans and projects:

- Developing the flood hazard portion of a hazard mitigation plan that meets the criteria of 44 CFR Part 201.
- Acquiring or relocating insured structures to reduce claims on the NFIP.
- Elevating insured residential structures above the 100-year flood.
- Elevating or dry flood proofing insured historic residential structures or non-residential structures.
- Minor localized flood reduction projects that protect flood-insured structures.

All properties involved in an FMA-funded project must have NFIP insurance at the time of project application.

### **INELIGIBLE PROJECTS:**

In addition to the specific ineligible project activities listed below, any proposed activity that duplicates benefits received for the same purpose or that is within the primary authority of another federal program are ineligible for funding under FMA. The following project activities are not eligible for the FMA grant program:

- Major flood control and/or erosion projects such as the construction or repair of dikes, levees, floodwalls, seawalls, groins, jetties, breakwaters, and dams.
- Dry flood proofing of residential structures.
- Phased or partial project that is dependent on another phase or part to be effective and/or feasible.
- Demolition of an existing structure and rebuilding a new structure on the same site (called mitigation reconstruction).
- Studies that do not result in a completed mitigation project (e.g., engineering designs, feasibility studies, or drainage studies that are not integral to implementation of the proposed project).
- Flood studies or flood mapping.
- Projects that solely address maintenance or repairs of existing structures, facilities or infrastructure (e.g., debris removal, dredging).
- Generators, and related equipment, such as generator hook-ups, for non-critical facilities or as a stand-alone activity.
- Response and communication equipment, and warning and alert notification systems (e.g., NOAA weather radios).

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The project application must demonstrate:

- Cost-effectiveness using a FEMA-approved Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) software. A project with a benefit-cost ratio of 1.0 or greater is considered cost effective.
- All individual properties to be mitigated must have NFIP insurance at the time of project application.
- Conformance with 44 CFR Part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, and 44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Considerations, and any applicable environmental laws and regulations.
- Technical feasibility and the ability to be implemented.
- Conformance with the minimum standards of the NFIP Floodplain Management Regulations.
- Conformance with the flood hazard component of the community's FEMA-approved multi-hazard mitigation plan that meets the criteria of 44 CFR Part 201, where the plan is approved by FEMA by the application deadline and at the time of grant award (the type of project being proposed must be identified in the plan).
- Located in a community participating and in good standing in the NFIP.
- Solving of a problem independently or constituting a functional portion of a solution where there is assurance that the project as a whole will be completed.
- Meeting the requirements of applicable Federal, State, Indian tribal, and local laws, implementing regulations, and executive orders.

See <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4225> for FY 2011 Hazard Mitigation Assistance program guidance.

## **CONTACT:**

Mark Stewart  
 State Hazard Mitigation Programs Manager  
 State of Washington Military Department  
 Emergency Management Division  
 Building 20, MS: TA-20  
 Camp Murray, Washington 98430-5122  
 (253) 512-7072  
[m.stewart@emd.wa.gov](mailto:m.stewart@emd.wa.gov)